



**Region IV Citizen Review Panel
707 N. Armstrong Pl, Boise, ID 83704
Huckleberry 2**

**Tuesday, May 3, 2022
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Panel Members: Shannon McCarthy, Brian McCauley, Allison Berkson, Merritt Dublin, and Britney Journee. Katie Fidrych joined the meeting at 4:57 pm. Nicole Noltensmeyer was absent (excused).

Staff: Courtney Boyce (CDH). Niki Flock and Heather Slavin (DHW).

Call Meeting to Order

Brian McCauley, the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm. Quorum confirmed.

Motion: Brian made a motion to amend the agenda for the time to adjourn to match the top part of the published agenda, where the panel adjourns before or at 6 pm. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Motion: Brian made a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Britney seconded. None opposed. The motion carried.

Motion: Brian made a motion that per Idaho §16-647, the Region IV Citizen Review Panel would enter into Executive Session, to discuss items exempt from public disclosure, as outlined in §74-105. Britney seconded. The motion was confirmed by roll call vote: Allison Berkson, Aye; Britney Journee, Aye; Shannon McCarthy, Aye; Merritt Dublin, Aye; Brian McCauley, Aye.

The Panel entered into Executive Session at 4:13 pm. Merritt excused herself as her enhanced background check was pending.

Motion: Brian made a motion to exit Executive Session. Britney seconded. This motion was confirmed by roll call vote. Allison Berkson, Aye; Britney Journee, Aye; Shannon McCarthy, Aye; Brian McCauley, Aye. Merritt abstained as she was not part of the Executive Session.

The Panel exited Executive Session at 4:51 pm. The Panel discussed items that were exempt from public disclosure, including case-specific information.

Reflection on April Public Testimony

The Panel discussed public testimony highlights from the monthly meeting in April. The Panel discussed the value of building relationships and continuing contacts. The Panel shared concerns regarding basic safety information and disclosure of required items including medical information, history of sexual abuse, victimization, and perpetration. Allison shared that foster parents do not get a

lot of training on standards and information is rarely shared verbally by DHW because of what is identified as being “confidential”.

Brian discussed that extended stays occur even though only a temporary or overnight placement was agreed upon. In those cases, foster parents may not be adequately informed as it was intended to be temporary. There needs to be enough disclosure so that foster parents can be informed and create protections in place for existing biological or foster children in the home. DHW shared that taking on additional placements is a conversation and negotiation. The Panel discussed that caseworkers are receiving a lot on onboarding, and there may areas that are being overlooked. The Panel discussed that an exit interview process by DHW may be enlightening as to why foster parents do not continue fostering or change licensing.

Recommendations Discussion

Allison shared that she noticed how many relatives and siblings are missed in the initial search for paternity and relatives and how she was unable to see how relatives are documented in case reviews. She shared that federal law says that all adult relatives are supposed to be notified within 30 days. How that practice is typically done is to create a list of relatives, but Panel members reviewing cases are unsure of what gaps are present in that initial search. This search should include a documented and systemized auditing of who was contacted, when, and what other adults may be present in the family unit. Allison also shared that who is considered a relative for placement is interesting, including the example that it is the child’s first cousin, not the parent’s first cousin. There is an expectation that communication will occur, however, there are flaws with how those connections are documented. Allison shared that an unintended consequence of the law with having family and kinship placements being reinforced is that some connections are only partially involved and knowledgeable about the children. Allison shared that it is a complex issue when dealing with substance use disorders. Allison will enter recommendations into the online reporting form.

New Members Orientation Update

Katie Fidrych and Merritt Dublin shared their updates regarding the Region IV Citizen Review Panel orientation process. Merritt shared that she is halfway through the videos, and her paperwork is signed and will be mailed to CDH. Her enhanced background check was completed and cleared but has not been submitted to the CRP Liaison. Katie has all of her paperwork signed and notarized. Her enhanced background check results are pending.

Adjourn

The Panel briefly discussed the June monthly meeting as DHW Administration will be present. Allison discussed that Teresa Vance is heading a federal grant with a court improvement program, with implementation scheduled within the next five years. They are working to improve the court process and the Panel would benefit from being aware of the activities that will be discussed.

Motion: Brian motioned to invite Teresa Vance to attend the July CRP meeting. Allison seconded. None opposed. The Panel approved inviting Teresa Vance as a guest speaker to the July meeting.

Brian McCauley, the Region IV Citizen Review Panel Chair, adjourned the meeting at 5:51 pm.

Meeting minutes were prepared by Courtney Boyce.